

REMARKS

Claims 27, 31 and 32 have been amended. Claims 33-35 have been added. Please charge any claim fees for the added claims and any other fees for entry of this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3415

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 27-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Rivette, et al. patent (US Patent No. 6,499,026). Applicants have amended applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32 and, with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32 have been amended to better define applicants' invention. More particularly, applicants' amended independent claim 27 recites an information processing apparatus, comprising: accumulation means for accumulating information about a related prior art document which is cited in a prosecution of a patent application in a first country and a related prior art document cited in another prosecution of a counterpart patent application in a second country different from the first country; and display control means for displaying a list of the related prior art documents cited in each of the prosecutions of the patent application in the first country and the counterpart patent application in the second country. Claims 31 and 32 have been similarly amended. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

More particularly, FIG. 40 of the Rivette, et al. patent discloses the displaying of a list of US patent documents (4028) and Foreign patent documents (4040) cited by USPTO in the prosecution of a US patent. That is, the Rivette, et al. patent teaches the displaying of a list of US and foreign patent documents (4028 and 4040) in the prosecution of a patent in the US only i.e., in a single country.

The Rivette, et al. patent thus fails to teach or suggest accumulating information about a related prior art document which is cited in a prosecution of a patent application in a first country and a related prior art document cited in another prosecution of a counterpart patent application in a second country different from the first country. Furthermore, the patent also fails to teach or suggest displaying a list of the related prior art documents cited in each of the prosecutions of the patent application in the first country and the counterpart patent application in the second country.

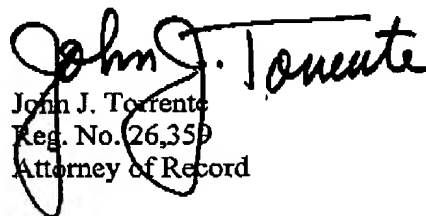
Applicants' independent claims 27, 31 and 32, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite such features, thus patentably distinguish over the Rivette, et al. patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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